

**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Alberta Mackenzie Provincial Council**

CHRISTIAN FAMILY LIFE

Communiqué # 2

Inspired by the Spirit...Women Respond to God's Call

Date:	November 1, 2017
To:	Diocesan Chairpersons of Christian Family Life
CC:	Provincial Executive (for information) National Chairperson of Christian Family Life (for information)
From:	Carol Schlachter, Provincial Chairperson of Christian Family Life

Greetings:

Have you noticed that it has been some time since a resolution has been brought forth under the committee of Christian Family Life? Perhaps it is because there are many Christian Family Life resolutions still in need of our action. I challenge you to access the list from the national website www.cwl.ca and pick one or two resolutions and follow up on the member action plans.

As our national chairperson of Christian Family Life points out, many of these resolutions can be used as education tools for members.

Also online at national is a resource document entitled Christian Family Life Study Kit. This may be advantageous to planning for council workshops.

Christian Family Life chairpersons are encouraged to review the duties of their committee as outlined in the Executive Handbook. We invite councils to share initiatives put forth in service to any of the categories listed. How have you administered to the youth, disabled, seniors, single, widowed, separated, divorced? How have you promoted Marriage and Family and Sanctity of Life? Perhaps you are sponsoring a seminarian or including prayers for vocations at your meetings? There are so many ways for us to be of service.

REMINDERS:

A video called The Third Way: Homosexuality and the Catholic Church is available for viewing at blackstonefilms.co/thethirdway/.

Families On The Way of the Cross is a new prayer resource, designed for pastoral use during moments of parish prayer, on Good Friday, or for public processions and prayer vigils. It is available at commissariat.ca/families-way-cross.

World Youth Day: Check the website jmjyouth.com for suggestions on how you can become involved to help youth attend the World Youth Day in 2019.

First World Day of the Poor – November 19, 2017. Access the Vatican website and read the message from Pope Francis. “Let us love, not with words but with deeds”. Pope Francis is calling on Christians around the world to serve the poor with concrete actions that address their daily needs, writing in a document launching a new World Day of the Poor that service to them is “an imperative that no Christian may disregard.” The pope says he hopes the new World Day of the poor can “become a powerful appeal to our consciences as believers, allowing us to understand the deepest truth of the Gospel.”

March for Life

The theme for the 2018 March for Life in Edmonton is “Amber Alert: Generations Missing!” All of the presentations at the march and in the advertising will center around this theme: the gradual disrespect and de-valuing of life, i.e. pre-born, disabled and dying and how it is leading the world to a bleak future.

How do we better engage our women in the march? Some thoughts from Sister Susan and Holy Trinity Council in Edmonton: 1) Take a bus - councils could plan this together. 2) Invite your pastor/spiritual advisor, deacon. 3) Take your council banner, CWL flag – highlight CWL. We are committed to caring for life so perhaps we can turn out in stronger numbers.

As stated previously, for those councils who are not able to go to Edmonton, have you considered planning your own march? Consider joining together as zones or regions.

Delegates at the AB/Mackenzie provincial convention this past June who responded to the evaluation questions, made it quite clear that our Committee of Christian Family Life must continue to concentrate on palliative care and euthanasia. Please continue to write your letters to government officials in regard to these concerns. Councils are also encouraged to engage speakers for meetings and involve the whole parish community by way of invitation. The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition is a good source of information. Access info@epcc.ca.

Help the Homeless:

Lynne Oe is our Chairperson from Grouard-McLennan Diocese and she has shared her council’s project for Christmas called “Giving Tree”. A Christmas tree will be placed in the church at the beginning of Advent and everyone is invited to bring items such as socks, toques, mitts, toothpaste, soap, etc. to tie on the tree. The items will be collected at Christmas and given to those in need.

An on-going project will involve collecting items for a “The Giving Basket”.

It will soon be time for annual reports. Once again it will be online reporting and I’m anxious to hear from the five diocesan Christian Family Life chairpersons who will be summarizing the parish council reports.

May your Advent journey be filled with joyful prayer in anticipation of Christmas.

